

Amendments to the Claims

Please amend the claims as follows

1. **(Currently amended)** A shell (12;14) for an ankle brace (10), the shell being arranged to be fitted to a side surface of a person's leg (18) on one side of the person's leg and to be registered with respect to the person's ankle-bone (26;30) on said one side of the person's leg, the shell being semi-rigid and having an inner surface shaped to conform semi-rigidly to a the side surface of a the person's leg (18) on one side of the person's leg so that, when the shell is so fitted and registered, the shell extends between an upper extent (56;62) of the shell above the person's ankle bone (26;30) on said one side of the person's leg and a lower extent (40;50) of the shell below the person's ankle bone on said one side of the person's leg but above the base of the person's heel (22) and between a forward extent (32,36;42,46) of the shell towards the front of the person's leg and a rearward extent (34,38;44,48) of the shell towards the rear of the person's leg, the shell not extending beyond the upper, lower, forward and rearward extents thereof, the shell having a registration portion (24;28) shaped to register the shell with respect to the person's ankle bone on said one side of the person's leg, the registration portion having portions for engaging with the protruding part of the person's ankle bone from below, from in front of, from behind and from above the person's ankle bone on said one side of the person's leg for registering the shell in the directions of the four extents with respect to the person's ankle bone, ~~the shell being arranged so that, when it is so registered with the person's ankle bone, the lower extent of the semi-rigid shell is above the base of the person's heel~~ and the shell being bifurcated by a slot (55;60) extending from the upper extent of the shell towards the registration portion.
2. **(Original)** A shell as claimed in claim 1, wherein the width of the slot above the registration portion is at least 5 mm.
3. **(Previously presented)** A shell as claimed in claim 1, wherein the width of the slot above the registration portion is at most 30 mm.
4. **(Previously presented)** A shell as claimed in claim 1, wherein the registration portion is provided by a hole (24;28) for snugly receiving the protruding part of the ankle bone on said one side of the person's leg.
5. **(Original)** A shell as claimed in claim 4, wherein the slot opens into the hole.
6. **(Original)** A shell as claimed in claim 4, wherein the slot stops short of the hole.

7. **(Previously presented)** A shell as claimed in claim 1, wherein the registration portion is provided by a recess in the inner surface of the shell for receiving and covering the protruding part of the ankle bone on said one side of the person's leg.

8. **(Cancelled)**

9. **(Original)** A shell as claimed in claim 7, wherein the slot extends as far as the recess.

10. **(Original)** A shell as claimed in claim 7, wherein the slot extends at least partly into the recess.

11. **(Previously presented)** A shell as claimed in claim 1, wherein the registration portion has a non-circular outline.

12. **(Previously presented)** A shell as claimed in claim 1, wherein the shell has a generally uniform thickness.

13. **(Previously presented)** A shell as claimed in claim 1, in combination with means (16,20) for adjustably strapping the shell to the person's leg.

14. **(Cancelled)**

15. **(Currently amended)** A shell as claimed in claim 1, wherein the forward extent of the shell ~~has~~ forms a projecting region (52) for covering the person's anterior talofibular ligament.

16. **(Previously presented)** A shell as claimed in claim 15, wherein the projecting region projects by a maximum distance (D) of about 60 mm \pm 10 mm from the tip (54) of the person's ankle bone (30) on said one side of the person's leg.

17. **(Currently amended)** An ankle brace (10) comprising a medial shell (12), a lateral shell (14) and means (16,20) for adjustably strapping the shells to a person's leg (18), the medial and lateral shells being arranged to be fitted to medial and lateral side surfaces, respectively, of the person's leg and to be registered with respect to the person's ankle-bone on the medial and lateral sides, respectively, of the person's leg, the medial shell being semi-rigid and having an inner surface shaped to conform semi-rigidly to the medial side surface of a the person's leg ~~on the medial side of the person's leg~~ so that, when the medial shell is so fitted and registered, the medial shell extends between an upper extent (56) of the medial shell above the person's ankle bone (26) on the medial side of the person's leg and a lower extent (40) of the medial shell below the person's ankle bone on the medial side of the person's leg but above the base of the person's heel (22), and between a forward extent (32,36) of the medial shell towards the front of the person's leg and a rearward

extent (34,38) of the medial shell towards the rear of the person's leg, the medial shell not extending beyond the upper, lower, forward and rearward extents thereof, ~~a lateral shell (14)~~, the lateral shell being semi-rigid and having an inner surface shaped to conform semi-rigidly to the lateral side surface of the person's leg ~~on the lateral side of the person's leg~~ so that when the lateral shell is so fitted and registered, the lateral shell extends between an upper extent (62) of the lateral shell above the person's ankle bone (30) on the lateral side of the person's leg and a lower extent (50) of the lateral shell below the person's ankle bone on the lateral side of the person's leg but above the base of the person's heel (22), and between a forward extent (42,46) of the lateral shell towards the front of the person's leg but spaced from the forward extent (32,36) of the medial shell and a rearward extent (44,48) of the lateral shell towards the rear of the person's leg but spaced from the rearward extent (34,38) of the medial shell, the lateral shell not extending beyond the upper, lower, forward and rearward extents thereof, ~~and means (16,20) for adjustably strapping the shells to the person's leg~~, each shell having a respective registration portion (24;28) shaped to register that shell with respect to the person's ankle bone on the respective side of the person's leg, each registration portion having portions for engaging with the protruding part of the person's ankle bone on the respective side of the person's leg from below, from in front of, from behind and from above the person's ankle bone for registering the shell in the directions of the four extents with respect to the person's ankle bone, ~~each shell being arranged so that, when it is so registered with the person's ankle bone, the lower extent of the semi-rigid shell is above the base of the person's heel~~ and each shell being bifurcated by a respective slot (55;60) extending from the respective upper extent of that shell towards the respective registration portion.

18. **(Original)** An ankle brace as claimed in claim 17, wherein the strapping means includes an adjustable strap (20) for extending under the person's heel (22) between the lower extents of the shells.

19. **(Previously presented)** A shell as claimed in claim 1 in combination with a sock, shoe or boot, the shell being fitted to the sock, shoe or boot.

20. **(Cancelled)**

21. **(Currently amended)** A shell (12;14) for an ankle brace (10), the shell being arranged to be fitted to a side surface of a person's leg (18) on one side of the person's leg and to be registered with respect to the person's ankle bone (26;30) on said one side of the person's leg, the shell being semi-rigid and having an inner surface shaped to conform semi-rigidly to a the side surface of a the person's leg ~~(18) on one side of the person's leg~~ so that, when the shell is so fitted and registered, the shell extends between an upper extent (56;62) of the shell above the person's ankle bone (26;30)

on said side of the person's leg and a lower extent (40;50) of the shell below the person's ankle bone on said side of the person's leg but above the base of the person's heel (22), and between a forward extent (32,36;42,46) of the shell towards the front of the person's leg and a rearward extent (34,38;44,48) of the shell towards the rear of the person's leg, the shell not extending beyond the upper, lower, forward and rearward extents, the shell having a registration portion (24;28) shaped to register the shell with respect to the person's ankle bone on said side of the person's leg, the registration portion having portions for engaging with the protruding part of the person's ankle bone on said side of the person's leg from below, from in front of, from behind and from above the person's ankle bone for registering the shell in the directions of the four extents with respect to the person's ankle bone, ~~the shell being arranged so that, when it is so registered with the person's ankle bone, the lower extent of the semi-rigid shell is above the base of the person's heel and the forward extent of the shell~~ having forming a projecting region (52) for covering the person's anterior talofibular ligament.

22. **(Previously presented)** A shell as claimed in claim 21, wherein the projecting region projects by a maximum distance (D) of about 60 mm \pm 10 mm from the tip (54) of the person's ankle bone (30) on one side of the person's leg.